

CLAIM SUMMARY DOCUMENT

Claims 1-14 (Canceled.)

Claim 15 (Currently Amended) A method for detecting and/or quantifying a nucleic acid coding for ~~SMR1~~ submandibular/submaxillary rat 1 protein (SMR1) comprising:

- DB
- a) contacting a DNA or RNA molecule with a nucleotide probe having the nucleotide sequence of ~~SEQ ID No. 1~~ SEQ ID NO: 7 under stringent conditions allowing said probe to hybridize with the target DNA or RNA molecule; and
 - b) detecting the hybrid formed between the DNA or RNA molecule and said nucleotide probe.

Claim 16. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 15 for detecting and/or qualifying mRNA coding for SMR1 polypeptide consisting essentially of:

- a) preparing mRNAs containing poly (A) sequence from the submaxillary gland of a rat;
- b) subjecting said RNAs prepared in step a) to an electrophoresis in a gel;
- c) transferring said RNAs to a nylon membrane;
- d) contacting said membrane with a nucleotide probe having the nucleotide sequence of ~~SEQ ID No. 1~~ SEQ ID NO: 7 under

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stringent conditions allowing said probe to hybridize to the
target RNA;

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- e) detecting the hybrid formed between the RNA and the
nucleotide probe; and
 - f) optionally quantifying the number of hybrid molecules as
formed.
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Claim 17 (Canceled.)